

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

NEW BEDFORD

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

of the

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD



For The Year

July 1, 1975 — June 30, 1976

ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 1975 — 76

The number of items borrowed last year by the people of New Bedford and the surrounding area would make a pile over 38,600 feet high — over 9,000 feet higher than Mount Everest! And if they had to buy all the books, magazines, records and films they borrowed, it would have cost them over \$3,000,000.00.

The use of the library system has grown steadily since 1969, when only 343,000 items were borrowed. Our mountain grew 10,000 feet in seven years, a considerable achievement, particularly when one realizes that the library still has substantially the same number of staff. The increased efficiency in the library operation keeps down the cost per item circulated and the cost per reference question answered, but requires more effort from each person.

The staff of the library is to be congratulated on their dedication. Improved performance under often stressful circumstances is a measure of maturity and I am proud of their tolerance of sometimes difficult working conditions.

During 1975-76 we regretfully said goodbye to six members of our staff: Mrs. Cecelia Weaver, Head of the Circulation Department who retired after 23 years; Mr. Luis Aguiar who had been with the Casa da Saudade from the beginning; Mr. Peter Barney who helped develop the growing Audiovisual Department; Mrs. Esther Taber whose experience and efficiency in the Circulation Department were always appreciated; Miss Bernadette Cayer who served ten years as the Library Bookkeeper; and Mrs. Rose Alves who retired after twenty-three years in the Custodial Department. All these dedicated people will be sorely missed.

Sixty-five people kindly donated 184 gifts of books, many of which were excellent and were added to our collections; the rest were put aside for our annual book sale which brought in \$457.66

this year. This money is used to purchase new and replacement books.

The use of microfilms, and the size of the collection, continued to grow. The four readers on the main floor and the three in the Genealogy Room were used by over 5,000 people; the number of microfilm reels increased to over 6,000.

Clothing pattern books were a feature added last year. Quarterly supplements of the Butterick, McCall's, Vogue, and Simplicity patterns are on display on the reading tables of the Central library.

The Garden Club of Greater New Bedford once more did their usual wonderful job on the library window boxes. They planted a vibrant collection of flowering plants that gave color and life to our dignified central building.

The Friends of the Library held many programs and money-raising events during the year. Outstanding were the Flea Market and the Ethnic Cooking program which was a great success.

The meeting rooms throughout the system hosted a full quota of programs emanating from the library and from community groups; in addition city and state agencies used the premises for their activities.

BRANCH ACTIVITIES

The four branches contributed to the rise in the use of the library by the public. Active children's programs and the Children's Services Department liaison with the City and parochial schools contributed to the increased circulation of children's books and a greater interest in the library by the children of the city. System activities in National Library Week were of an educational nature. Continued program activity oriented towards the community by the Howland Green Branch produced rewards of greater use and of less vandalism. The Elderly Nutrition Program's use of the branch's

meeting room every day, while subjecting it to sustained use for which it was not designed, has brought in to the building many who otherwise would have been too shy or otherwise reluctant to come in.

The Bookmobile schedule was redirected towards the changes originating with the opening of new schools and the closing of older ones. Public housing which formed their own enclaves were serviced by new stops, and several Nursing Homes were also included. Audio cassettes, magazines and records were included in the bookmobile's collection.

My own personal gratitude as Director goes to the Trustees, the other City officials and the City Council for their selfless support and interest in the library's efforts and operations. May the next seven years be as fruitful of benefit to the City and surrounding area.

PRIVATE FUNDS

Fund	On Hand Jul 1975	Received 6-30-75 - 7-1-76	Disbursed 6-30-75 - 7-1-76	On Hand 6-30-76
F. S. Allen	\$ 98.02	\$ 58.56	\$ 135.93	\$ 20.65
James B. Congdon	28.64	29.40	35.78	22.26
Geo. O. Crocker	281.97	593.04	805.50	69.51
Oliver Crocker	74.17	58.76	116.03	16.90
George Howland	149.41	111.22	233.85	26.78
Sylvia A. Howland	1,212.89	5,189.34	6,041.61	360.62
Susan Jones	884.00	854.27	1,630.31	107.96
Kempton	17,261.23	33,586.31	39,725.61	11,121.93
Elizabeth Mackie	84.57	58.76	70.53	72.80
C. Morgan	117.09	58.76	—	175.85
C. Tripp	354.50	1,325.29	88.01	1,591.78
Florence Waite	557.79	538.12	727.03	368.88
Patty Wilcox	393.34	323.98	—	717.32
Wilks	16,256.46	38,721.73	24,214.94	39,763.25
C. Wood	275.88	137.02	144.27	268.63
Restoration Ball	302.46	—	300.00	2.46
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$38,332.42	\$81,644.56	\$74,269.40	\$45,707.58

NEW BEDFORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

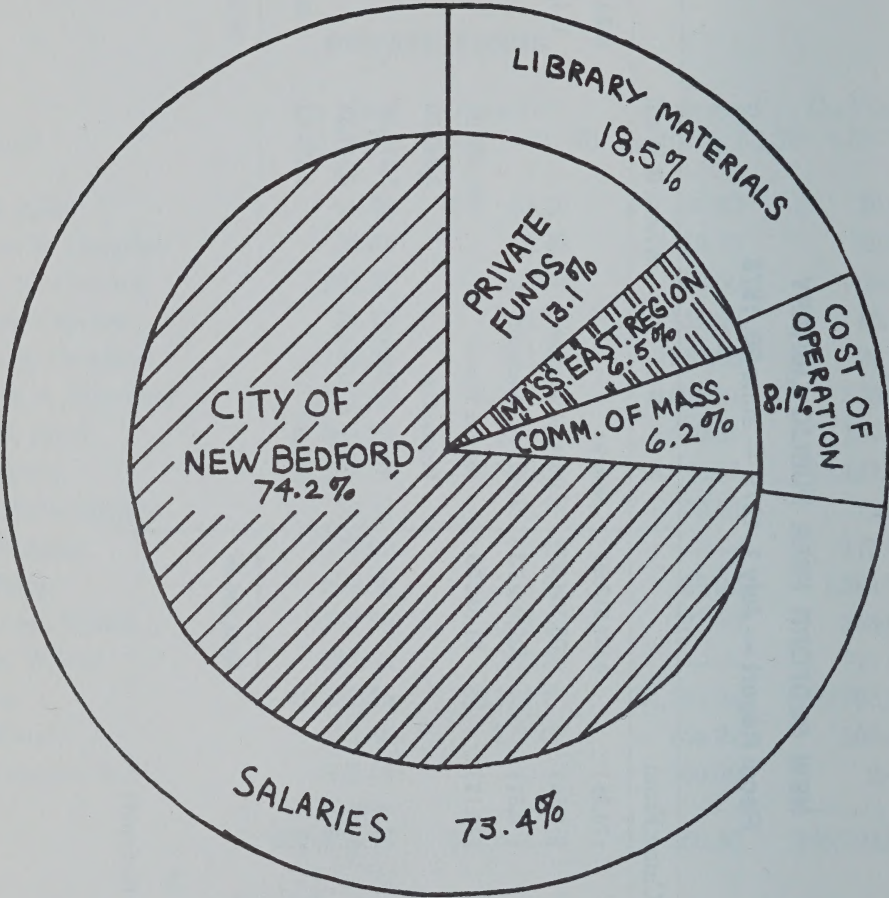
Fiscal Report — July 1, 1975 — June 30, 1976

Where it Came From		Where it Went
City of New Bedford	(74.2%)	Salaries \$454,730.14 (73.4%)
Commonwealth of Massachusetts	(6.2%)	Library Materials 114,684.62 (18.5%)
Massachusetts Eastern Region	(6.5%)	Cost of Operation:
Private Funds	(13.1%)	Heat & Power \$29,461.29
		Processing 3,842.79
		Maint. & Repair 5,576.33
		Office & Admin. 6,561.52
		Other 4,377.80
		<u>\$619,234.49</u>
		<u>\$619,234.49</u>

Assessed Valuation: \$185,116,325.00

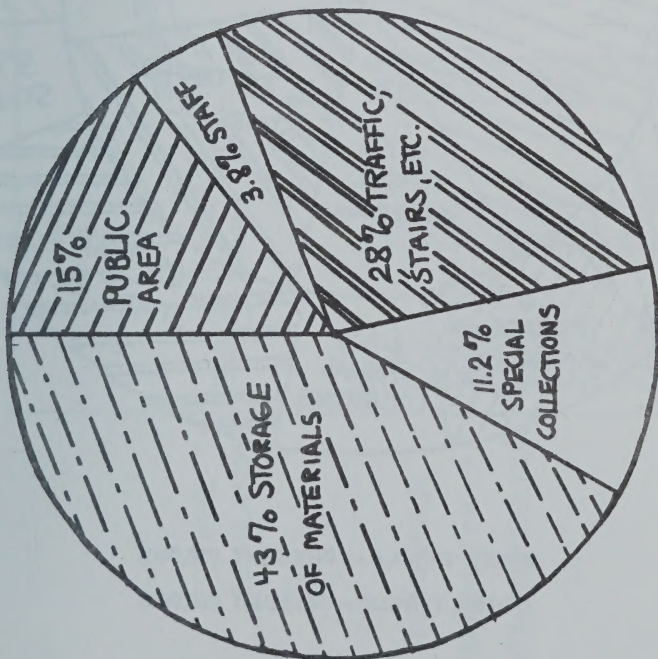
City Support: 2.5 mills (\$2.50 per thousand)

FIGURE 1.

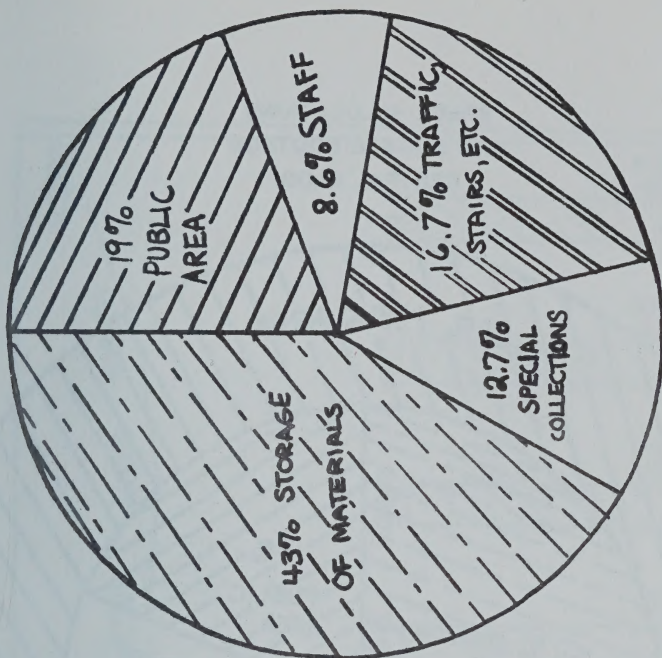


CITY FINANCIAL SUPPORT
VERSUS COST OF OPERATION
1975-76
CITY SUPPORT \$2.50 PER THOU.

FIGURE 2.



1969

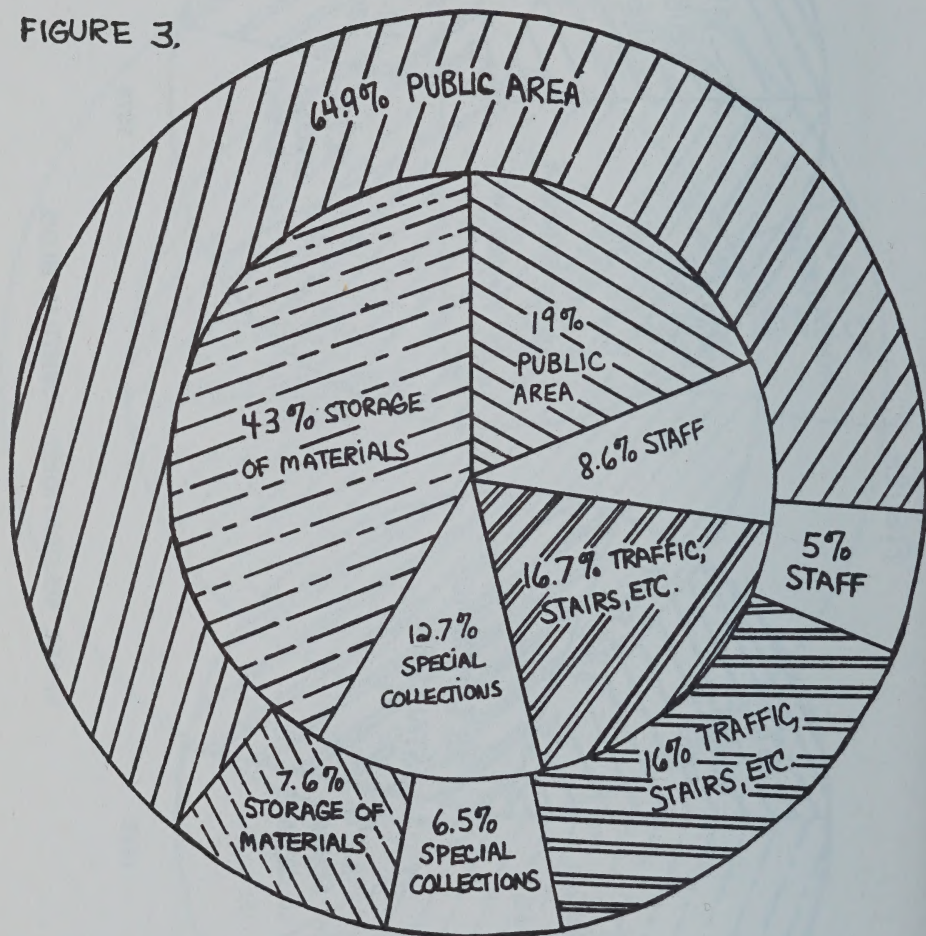


1976

SPACE ALLOCATIONS — CENTRAL BLDG.

SPACE ALLOCATIONS
AND SQUARE FOOTAGE
CENTRAL BLDG.

FIGURE 3.



INNER CIRCLE — PRESENT (33,000)

OUTER CIRCLE — NEEDED (66,000)

FIGURE 4.

COMPOSITION OF TOTAL CIRCULATION

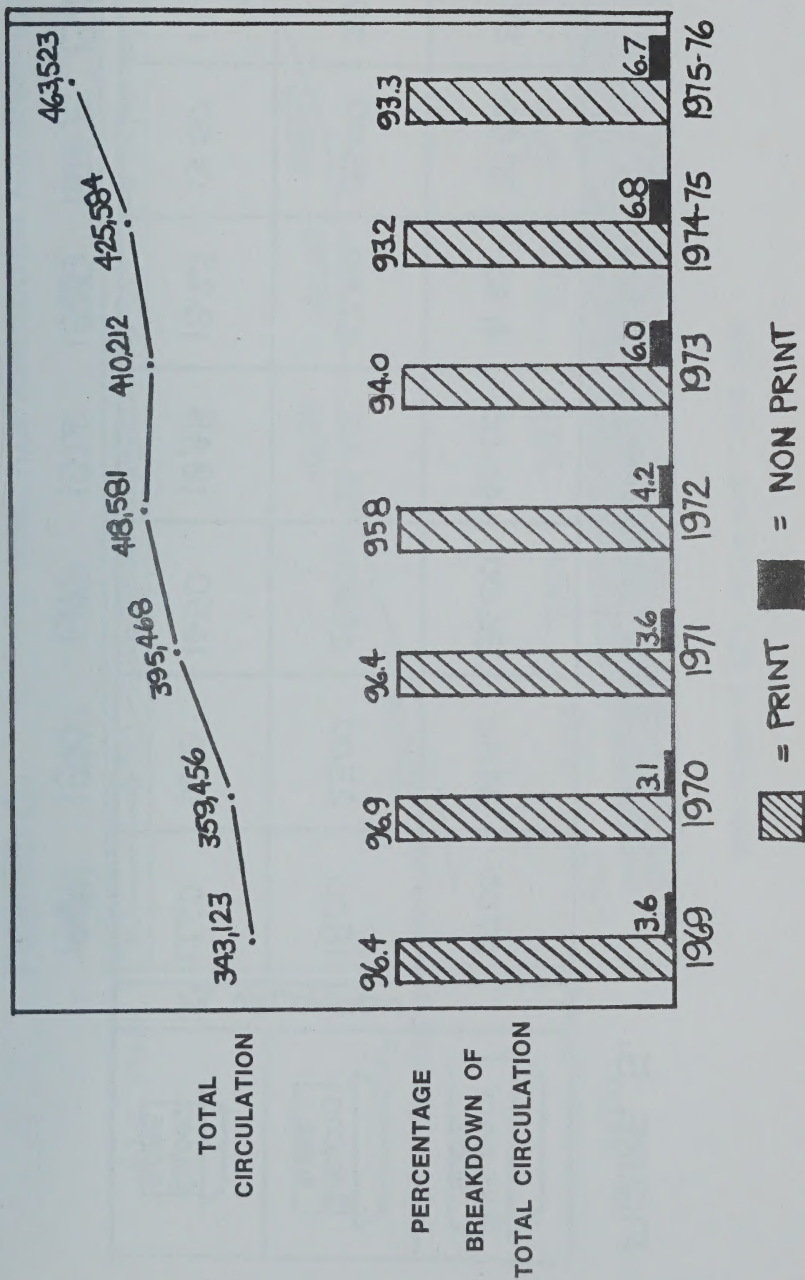


FIGURE 5.

TAX DOLLAR SUPPORT OF LIBRARY

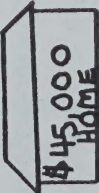
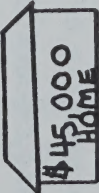
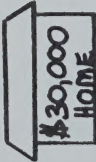
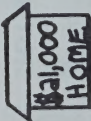
	VALUATION						
	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974-75	1975-76
	27.00	34.50	36.00	40.00	41.25	37.50	37.50
	18.00	23.00	24.00	26.40	27.50	25.00	25.00
	12.60	16.10	16.50	18.48	19.25	13.50	17.50

FIGURE 6.

WORKLOAD (CIRCULATION PER STAFF MEMBER)

